AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims below replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims.

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A system for configuring software to correspond to the physical configuration of a convertible checkout station comprising:

a physical configuration actuator responsive to the physical configuration of the convertible checkout station; and;

a physical configuration signal generator responsive to the actuator

to generate a signal identifying the physical configuration of [[a]]the convertible checkout station.

Claim 2. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the physical configuration actuator and physical configuration signal generator are reed switches mounted to surfaces brought into proximity to one another in one physical configuration of the checkout station and separated from one another in another physical configuration of the checkout station.

Claim 3. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the physical configuration actuator is a tab mounted to a stationary surface of the checkout station and the physical configuration signal generator is a plunger switch mounted to a surface movable relative to the stationary surface.

Claim 4. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the physical configuration actuator is a magnet mounted to a stationary surface of the checkout station and the physical

configuration signal generator is a magnetic switch mounted to a surface movable relative to the stationary surface.

Claim 5. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the physical configuration actuator is a radiation source mounted to a stationary surface of the checkout station and the physical configuration signal generator is a radiation sensing switch mounted to a surface movable relative to the stationary surface.

Claim 6. (Original) The system terminal of claim 1 wherein the physical configuration actuator is mounted to a stationary surface of the checkout station and the physical configuration signal generator is mounted to a surface movable relative to the stationary surface.

Claim 7. (Original) The system of claim 6 wherein the stationary surface is a surface of a sliding drawer and the movable surface is a surface of a scanner that is mounted by a swivel to the sliding drawer.

Claim 8. (Original) The system of claim 6 wherein the stationary surface is a surface of a recessed compartment of the checkout station and the movable surface is a side of a sliding drawer mounted to move with reference to the recessed compartment.

Claim 9. (Original) The system of claim 6 wherein the stationary surface is a surface of a recessed compartment of the checkout station and the movable surface is one end of a

scanner mounted to rotate with respect to the recessed compartment.

Claim 10. (Original) The system of claim 1 further comprising:

a processor coupled to the signal generated by the signal generator so that the processor configures software for operating the checkout station in correspondence with the physical configuration indicated by the generated signal.

Claim 11. (Currently amended) A method for configuring software to correspond to the physical configuration of a convertible checkout station comprising:

moving a first component of a convertible checkout station to a position relative to ~~another~~ a second component of the convertible checkout station to generate a configuration signal that indicates a physical configuration of the checkout station where the movement of the first component changes the physical configuration of the checkout station; and

determining a software configuration for the checkout station corresponding to the physical configuration indicated by the generated signal.

Claim 12. (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising:

loading software modules corresponding to one operational mode for the checkout station.

Claim 13. (Original) The method of claim 12 further comprising:

executing the loaded software modules to operate the checkout station in the

operational mode corresponding to the indicated physical configuration.

Claim 14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13 further comprising:

interrupting the execution of the loaded software modules in response to detection of a change in the position of the ~~moveable~~ first component so that the generated signal indicates a change in the physical configuration of the checkout station.

Claim 15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14 further comprising:

loading software modules corresponding to another operational mode for the checkout station in response to the detected change in the position of the ~~moveable~~ first component so that the generated signal indicates a change in the physical configuration of the checkout station.

Claim 16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 further comprising:

loading software modules corresponding to a second operational mode for the checkout station; and

executing the loaded software modules for the second operational mode to operate the checkout station in the second operational mode corresponding to the detected change in the position of the ~~moveable~~ first component of the checkout station.

Claim 17. (Currently Amended) A system for configuring software to correspond to the physical configuration of a convertible checkout station comprising:

means for generating a signal indicative of a physical configuration of a checkout

station;

means for detecting the checkout station in a first physical configuration;

means for actuating the generating means so that the generating means generates a signal indicative of [[a]] the first physical configuration of the checkout station in response to the detecting means detecting the first physical configuration ~~actuating means and generating means being in proximity to one another~~; and

means for determining an operational mode for the checkout station from the generated signal.

Claim 18. (Canceled) The system of claim 17 further comprising:

means for actuating the generating means so that the generating means generates a signal indicative of a first physical configuration of the checkout station in response to the actuating means and generating means being in proximity to one another.

Claim 19. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 17 wherein the generating means changes the signal in response to the detecting means detecting the checkout station is not in the first physical configuration~~actuating means being separated from the generating means~~.

Claim 20. (Original) The system of claim 17 wherein the signal generating means is coupled to a processor for interrupting the processor so that the processor may change software configuration for operating the checkout station in another operational mode.

Claim 21. (Previously Presented) A method for configuring software to correspond to the physical configuration of a convertible checkout station comprising:

detecting a spatial relationship between at least two components of a convertible checkout station;

generating a configuration signal corresponding to the detected spatial relationship; and

determining a software configuration for the checkout station in response to the generated configuration signal.

Claim 22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, the spatial relationship detection further comprising:

detecting rotation of a scanner of the convertible checkout station relative to another component of the convertible checkout station.

Claim 23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, the scanner rotation detection further comprising:

detecting the scanner rotation relative to a sliding drawer position.

Claim 24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, the spatial relationship detection further comprising:

detecting proximity of one reed switch to another reed switch.

Claim 25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, the spatial relationship

detection further comprising:

detecting an emission from one component of the convertible checkout station.

Claim 26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, the emission detection further comprising:

detecting an emitted radiation field from the one component.

Claim 27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, the emitted radiation field detection further comprising:

detecting a magnetic field emitted from the one component.

Claim 28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, the emission detection further comprising:

detecting an optical signal emitted from the one component.

Claim 29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, the optical signal detection further comprising:

detecting an infrared signal emitted by the one component.

Claim 30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, the spatial relationship detection further comprising:

detecting a mechanical extension from the one component.

Claim 31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, the mechanical extension detection further comprising:

detecting a tab extending from the one component with a switch extending from the other component of the convertible checkout station.

Claim 32. (New) A method for configuring software to correspond to the physical configuration of a convertible checkout station comprising:

moving a scanner component of the convertible checkout station from a first position to a second position;

detecting the scanner component is in the second position;

generating a configuration signal that indicates the physical configuration of the checkout station with the scanner component in the second position; and

selecting a software configuration for the checkout station corresponding to the physical configuration indicated by the generated configuration signal.